

21 November 2022



Incident Alert

Sea Robbery Incidents in the Singapore Strait

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21 November 2022

Sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait

Incidents of Sea Robbery continue to occur to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS). In November 2022, four incidents were reported in the SS.

Of the four incidents, two incidents were reported on 21 Nov 22 within an interval of 30 minutes and at close proximity to each other (0.4 nm apart) in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). The other two incidents occurred in the precautionary area of TSS on 9 Nov 22, and eastbound lane of TSS on 19 Nov 22. The ReCAAP ISC alerts the maritime community of the increase in incidents in the SS, and advises ships transiting the area to exercise enhanced vigilance.

The two incidents on 21 Nov 22 in the westbound lane of TSS occurred on board barges towed by tug boats, and were underway **off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia**. There is a possibility that the same group of perpetrators is responsible for both incidents as the modus operandi of the perpetrators are similar. In both incidents, a large number of perpetrators (nine men & 14 men) boarded the barge from small boats, stole scrap metals and escaped. The crew members were not injured in both incidents.

In the incident on 9 Nov 22, a perpetrator boarded a barge towed by a tug boat while underway **off Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia**. The perpetrator stole a mooring rope from the barge and escaped. In the incident on 19 Nov 22, five perpetrators were sighted in the engine room of a bulk carrier while underway **off Pulau Cula**, and escaped empty-handed when the crew was alerted to their presence. The crew members were not injured in both incidents.

With these four incidents, a total of 48 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022, comprising 28 incidents in the eastbound lane of the TSS, 11 incidents in the precautionary area, six incidents in the westbound lane, two incidents outside the TSS and one incident in the separation zone of the TSS. The locations of the 48 incidents are indicated in the map next page.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective territorial seas/archipelagic waters, and promote cooperation and coordination among the littoral States in patrols and information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved in order to arrest the perpetrators.

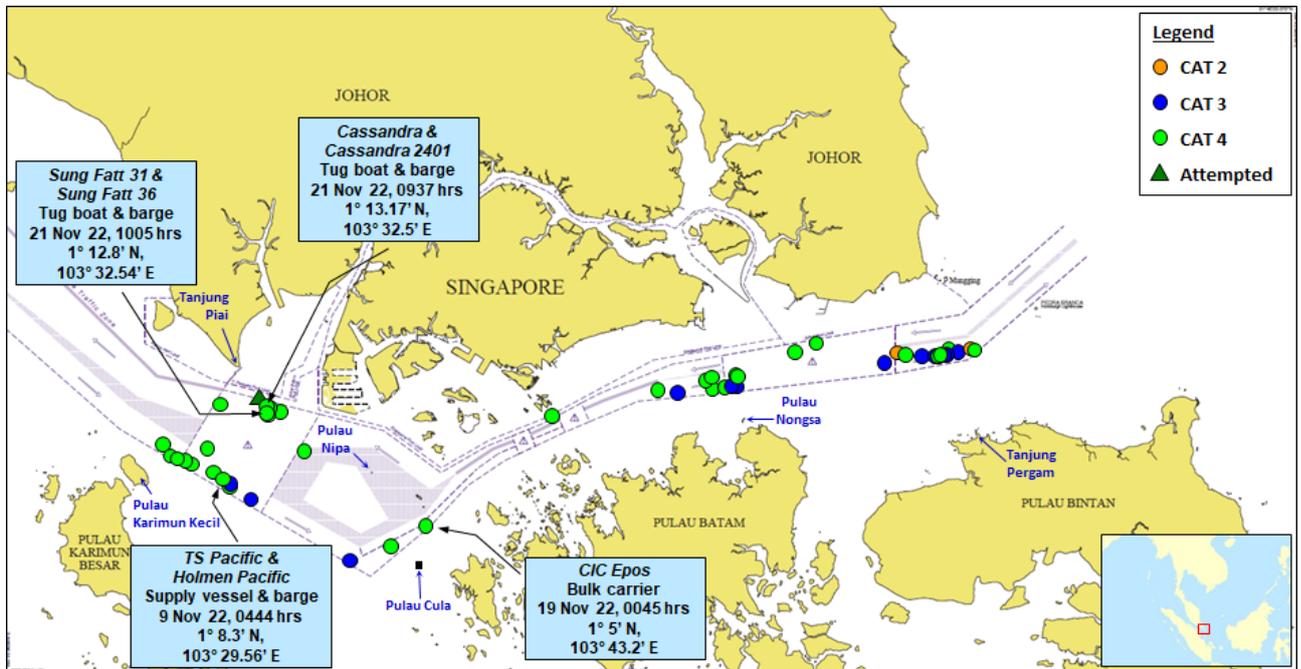
All ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain look-out while transiting the areas of concern, particularly during night time, adopt preventive measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship masters and crew are advised to get the latest information (at www.recaap.org) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States.



Location of Incidents in the Singapore Strait (since January 2022)

Since January 2022, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC **48 incidents** that occurred to ships while underway in the SS.

The locations of the 48 incidents are shown in the map below; and description of the four incidents reported in November 2022 are in Annex A.



Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2022



The description of the four incidents as shown below:

S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
1.	09/11/22 0444 hrs Approximately 9 nm east of Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia, in the precautionary area of TSS in SS	<p>While underway, the master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that a perpetrator had boarded the barge on tow via the stern of the barge from a small boat. At about 0505 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that a mooring rope was stolen. The crew was not injured. The tug boat and barge were in transit eastbound, with no cargo on board. The barge was unmanned and on a long tow of 550m.</p> <p>Safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
2.	19/11/22 0045 hrs Approximately 3 nm north from Pulau Cula, in the eastbound lane of TSS in SS	<p>While underway, the master reported to Singapore VTIS that five perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. Upon raising the alarm, the five perpetrators ran away and jumped overboard.</p> <p>A search was conducted by the crew on board the ship, with no further sightings of the perpetrators. Nothing was reported stolen and all crew were safe. The ship did not require further assistance, and proceeded with her voyage to Singapore.</p> <p>Safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
3.	21/11/22 0937 hrs Approximately 3.25 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai, Malaysia, in the westbound lane of TSS in SS	<p>While underway, RSN's MSTF informed Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) that they had sighted two small boats in the vicinity of barge, <i>Cassandra 2401</i>. POCC contacted the master of towing tug boat, <i>Cassandra</i>, who confirmed that there were three small boats alongside the barge and nine perpetrators on board the barge.</p> <p>The perpetrators stole scrap metal from the barge and escaped. Master accounted for all crew and reported no injuries to the crew. Master reported no further assistance was required, and the tug boat & barge resumed their voyage to Port Klang, Malaysia.</p> <p>Safety navigational broadcast initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian and Malaysian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
4.	21/11/22 1005 hrs Approximately 3.57 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai, Malaysia, in the westbound lane of TSS in SS	<p>While underway, RSN's MSTF informed Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) that they had sighted two small boats in the vicinity of barge, <i>Sung Fatt 36</i>. POCC contacted the master of towing tug boat, <i>Sung Fatt 31</i>, who confirmed that there were five small boats alongside the barge and 14 perpetrators on board the barge.</p> <p>The perpetrators stole scrap metal from the barge and escaped. Master accounted for all crew and reported no injuries to the crew.</p> <p>Safety navigational broadcast initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian and Malaysian authorities.</p>

